



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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DAVIS RECALL: NEW FIELD POLL HAS SOME VERY CONFLICTING NEWS FOR DEMO GOV. GRAY DAVIS.

Editor's note: There's good news and bad news for both those who want to recall Calif. Gov. Gray Davis and the embattled Demo governor. The new Field Poll has some conflicting, yet interesting numbers. The survey was taken April 1-6 among 695 registered voters. Here's our update & analysis...

...Back in September of 2002 – two months before Davis was narrowly reelected over GOP rival Bill Simon to a 2nd term – the governor's personal image rating stood at 45% favorable vs. 46% unfavorable. The newest Field Poll shows that Davis' numbers have slipped much further into negative territory: 67% unfavorable vs. 27% favorable, with 6% undecided. According to the Field Poll, this is Davis' *worst performance ever* and is the lowest rating of any Calif. governor since pollster Mervin Field began polling 55 years ago. Even among Demos, Davis' scores are terrible: 41% favorable vs. 54% unfavorable, with 5% undecided...

...But would voters actually sign a recall petition if it were put in front of them? That's a key question and on this point Davis may have dodged a bullet: 62% would NOT sign vs. 33% who would sign, with 5% not sure. Among Demo voters, 77% would NOT sign; among GOP voters 43% would NOT sign; and among independents/others 61% would NOT sign a petition to recall Davis. This is the only good news for Davis...

...Will recall advocates be able to get the resources to collect 1.2 million signatures? That's still the big unanswered question, but those who are backing the recall think this new Field Poll may help with fundraising because it shows IF the recall were to qualify for the ballot, Davis is in trouble. If voters were given a choice to vote YES or NO on a recall of Gov. Davis, 46% would vote YES vs. 43% NO, with 11% undecided. Among Demos, it's 28% YES vs. 61% NO – which means Davis has to be worried about his base. Among independents, 45% would vote to recall vs. 39% who would not. Among GOPers, it's 69%

YES vs. 22% NO, with 9% undecided...

...FYI: If the recall was successful, who would replace Davis? According to the Field Poll, Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante(D) would finish 1st with 22%, followed by GOP actor Arnold Schwarzenegger with 17%. Next comes the 2002 GOP nominee Bill Simon Jr. with 15%, followed by Demo AG Bill Lockyer with 11%. Next comes former GOP SOS Bill Jones with 10%, followed by Demo State Treasurer Phil Angelides with 4%. 21% are undecided. If in fact this recall were to qualify, it's almost a sure bet that Demos and GOPers would work to clear the field so that there would be only one candidate from each party. Stay tuned...

BUSH AT WAR: WILL SYRIA BE NEXT ON HIT LIST?

Editor's note: The repressive rule of Saddam Hussein in Iraq is now at an end. Don't know if Hussein is alive or dead, but major military action has ceased, except for some firefights. Operation Iraqi Freedom took less than a month to complete. Now the U.S. and its coalition allies begin the much more difficult job of nation building. And while all this is going on, the U.S. has turned its attention to neighboring Syria. If you go back to the Mar. 24th issue of Calpeek, you'll see Calpeek noted that Syria could well be on the U.S.'s hit list for regime change. This week we'll look at the politics of Syria-bashing. Here's our analysis...

...Everyday, for the past 7-9 days, the headlines in the news media has been: Pressure on Syria Grows. It's been a steady drumbeat out of DC aimed at making the Damascus government of Bashar Assad "behave." The big problem, as was pointed out by the L.A. Times' Robin Wright, who is really in charge? Bashar Assad may be a figure-head leader, with Syrian Baath Party generals really running the show. Will the U.S. go to war with Syria? Probably not, because economic sanctions may do the job. U.S. troops have cut the oil pipeline between Northern Iraq and Syria. Revenue from that shady deal to Syria: \$1 billion per year...

...Oddly enough this Syria-bashing is more than a year old – and it didn't start with the Bush Administration, but rather with the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House. Back in

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the *spring of 2002*, Iraq was not yet in the cross-hairs of U.S. guns and the Bush Admin. was trying very hard to down-play the Syria-bashing in the Congress...

...But on April 18, 2002 (107th Congress), the *Syrian Accountability Act* was introduced in both Houses of Congress. In the U.S. Senate, S.2215 was introduced by U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer(D-CA) and Rick Santorum(R-PA). Some 45 co-sponsors signed on, including Dianne Feinstein(D-CA)...

...In the U.S. House, H.R. 4483 was authored by former Majority Leader Dick Armey(R-TX) and Eliot Engel(D-NY). Wording was pretty much the same for both. Here are the key points: 1) Syria must end its active support of terrorism; 2) Syria must end its occupation of Lebanon; 3) Syria must stop development of weapons of mass destruction; 4) and Syria must stop its illegal importation of Iraqi oil (in violation of UN sanctions). Today, the Bush Admin. says Syria is in violation of all of the above **plus** it is giving safe haven to Iraqi war criminals and scientists who helped Iraq develop WMD...

...Signing onto the 2002 SAA as co-sponsors were 172 house members, including 15 from Calif. (Berman, Davis, Gallegly, Bono, Calvert, Farr, Harman, Matsui, Ose, Lantos, Sanchez, Schiff, Sherman, Woolsey and Waxman). **MIA:** two GOP U.S. House members who are exploring a 2004 run for the U.S. Senate against Boxer: Darrell Issa and George Radanovich. Doug Ose was a co-sponsor...

...FYI: when the Easter Congressional recess is over, Engel and Miami U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen(R) will introduce a new version of the *Syrian Accountability Act*, for 2003. U.S. Rep. Bob Matsui(D-Sacto) has signed on a co-sponsor. This time around the betting is the SAA will have total support from the Bush White House – unlike 2002. **Question:** will Radanovich and/or Issa sign on as co-sponsors? Ditto: Barbara Boxer. If she continues to support the SAA, then all that talk about her being *soft* gets tossed. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2003: WILLIAMS ARREST FOR COCAINE IN 1988 BECOMES ISSUE IN L.A.'s 10TH COUNCIL RACE

Editor's note: News that L.A. 10th Council District candidate Deron Williams was busted for cocaine possession back in 1988 has added a new twist to this very close contest with former labor/legislative staffer Martin Ludlow. The runoff election is May 20th. Here's our brief analysis...

...Opinion is rather mixed on whether the news media coverage of Deron Williams' bust in 1988 will kill his chances of

succeeding his boss, *termed out* Councilman Nate Holden. Those who say it's a killer story are not looking so much at the first story run in the L.A. Times on April 11th, but rather at the follow-up story on April 12th. In the first story, Williams essentially tried to downplay the seriousness of the felony arrest – "I was in the wrong place at the wrong time." That doesn't really cut it. And when Williams said he was caught holding a package (cocaine) that belonged to someone else, that too wasn't exactly truthful. Fact is he was trying to smuggle packages of cocaine hidden in his underwear...

...Regardless, those who have endorsed Williams are sticking by Holden's top deputy – including new Councilman and former LAPD Chief Bernard Parks. Parks, as well as Holden, and even former Assemblyman Rod Wright, all knew about Williams' 1988 arrest. So it's likely that others, including Ludlow, also knew about it. *Calpeek* was tipped off that something negative and big was coming down on Williams three weeks ago...

...The big question for Ludlow and his campaign is how to use the disclosure in a way which won't backfire. As many *Calpeek* sources have said, what happened to Williams isn't unique to young men in the 10th CD. And because Williams has really turned his life around over the past 15 years, some think this disclosure won't hurt him. Are there other politicians who have faced the same kind of situation and survived? Former L.A. Councilman Mike Hernandez comes to mind. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2004: SAN DIEGO MAYOR MURPHY DOES ANOTHER FLIP FLOP AND WILL SEEK REELECTION.

Editor's note: San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy looks kind of foolish – flip flopping from YES (I will seek reelection) to NO (I won't) to YES I will – all within a month. It all started on March 14th with his first announcement, followed by a March 28th withdrawal and then the April 11th reversal of his withdrawal. Confused? So are we and *Calpeek* really hasn't had a satisfactory explanation as to what the hell is going on at City.Hall. Here's our analysis & commentary...

...The 3rd paragraph of a *San Diego Union-Tribune* story by Caitlin Rother & Ray Huard probably sums up the situation best: "*Some political observers say Murphy's indecisiveness over the past month may have poked a hole in his reputation as a steady, deliberative leader, leaving an opening big enough for an opponent to jump through.*"...

...But several neutral *Calpeek* sources say that even though Murphy looked foolish with these flip-flops, it won't hurt because at this point there's no serious, well-funded opponent. There is some talk coming from Councilwoman Donna Frye, but nothing definite...

...So why the 2nd flip-flop? City hall sources say there was a genuine draft movement. Murphy, sources say, got bombarded with phone calls, faxes, emails – all urging him to reconsider. Then there was this “rally” on April 10th, led by key members of San Diego’s business community. Anti-Murphy sources think that was all scripted. Nevertheless, these same sources do agree that Councilmembers such as Jim Madaffer were indeed sincere in pushing Murphy to reconsider – which he did...

...Will Murphy’s flip-flopping really lead to a serious opponent in 2004? Too early to tell, but consultant Larry Remer is up with a very clever website aimed at Murphy: www.getsomeonewhowantsthejob.com...

...So with Murphy all set for a 2004 reelection run, Councilmembers Scott Peters, Brian Maisenschein and Ralph Inzunza can go back to planning their 2008 run when in fact Murphy is *termed out*. Ditto San Diego Port Comms. Peter Q. Davis and Steve Cushman. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: ANTI-HUNTING BILLS COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR DAVIS IF RECALL QUALIFIES

Editor’s note: It shouldn’t come as a big surprise that the Calif. Rifle & Pistol Assn. (CRPA), the State arm of the powerful NRA, appears to be helping the recall effort aimed at Calif. Gov. Gray Davis(D). If one goes to the CRPA’s website, you’ll see the Davis Recall website, along with the download box for recall petitions. And it has not been helpful to Davis that 4 Demo legislators have either introduced or talked about writing legislation which is described by some *Calpeek* sources as being very anti-hunter. This is not what Gov. Davis needs right now in light of the recall drive. Here’s our brief analysis & commentary...

...The four Demo lawmakers who could cause considerable trouble for Gov. Davis are Assemblymembers Joe Nation of San Rafael, Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento, Paul Koretz of West Hollywood and Mark Ridley-Thomas of L.A...

...Steinberg has been toying around with the idea of registering rifles and shotguns – same as handguns. Steinberg has been warned that if he introduce a long gun registration bill, he’ll end up in a war with hunters and sportsmen. Statewide, there are about 200,000 to 300,000 hunters, and the biggest hunk of licensed hunters are in Sacramento Co...

...Nation actually had a bill (AB 1190) to ban the hunting of doves, but he pulled the bill from the calendar and our sources say he won’t bring it up again. Among those who went on the warpath against Nation was Jim Kellogg, a top labor leader and a close Davis ally and fundraiser. Accord-

ing to Dan Borenstein of the *Contra Costa Times*, Kellogg sent out a letter to other union leaders saying Nation’s bill went too far. And Kellogg threatened to run a rival against Nation in the 2004 primary. Don’t know if Kellogg would have succeeded, but the threat was real and Nation obviously didn’t want to take any chances...

...Koretz’s AB 342 would ban the use of dogs for hunting. If you think Nation’s bill caused a furor, it was minor league compared to the 4,000 letters, faxes, emails sent to the Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee, the policy committee where Koretz’s bill was heard. It was defeated, getting only 4 out of 20 votes, but Koretz has asked for reconsideration. The CA Water Fowl Assn. has declared war on 342. Will this bill ever get out of committee? As they say in Texas, “*The dog won’t hunt*” and neither will AB 342...

...Ridley-Thomas’ AB 992 is still alive. If approved and signed (doubtful) it would impose a fee on all ammo – with the funds going to trauma centers. Thus a box of shotgun shells which now sell for \$10-12 per box, could go up to at least \$20 per box – maybe more. AB 992 cleared the Public Safety Cmt. and is now awaiting a hearing before the Assembly Health Cmt., chaired by Gov. Davis’ former Appointments Secretary, Assemblyman Dario Frommer(D-L.A.). Source say Frommer is close to Kellogg and Frommer’s AD does have a large union/blue collar base, meaning there are probably lots of hunters. Does AB 992 survive? If the recall weren’t a factor, then maybe. But with the recall underway, probably not. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2004: UPDATE ON PRIMARY CAMPAIGNS.

Editor’s note: Here is *Part IX* in our continuing series of updates about CA Legislative and U.S. House primaries...

☒ 9th SD – State Sen. Don Perata(D-Oakland) has been given the green light by AG Bill Lockyer(D) to run for another term. Legislative Counsel had issued an opinion saying Perata was *termed out* in 2004. Perata fell into that unique situation which occurs once every 10-12 years. He ran for Barbara Lee’s SD in a special election after Lee won a special election to replace former Congressman Ron Delums. In a long and involved legal opinion, Lockyer said Perata could seek another term because he was sworn into office with less than a half term remaining on Lee’s 4 year term. So now the ball is in SOS Kevin Shelley’s court. He’s the guy who can either certify or reject Perata’s candidacy. Odds are he’ll certify. Then the focus will shift to Assemblywoman Wilma Chan and/or former Assemblywoman Dion Aroner, both of whom want Perata’s SD. Either or both could go to court to block Shelley’s decision. This is really a *stay tuned* situation...

☒ **73rd AD** – This is the open seat currently held by *term-ed out* Assemblywoman Patricia Bates(R-Laguna Nigel). Again, this is very safe *GOP turf*. In the top tier is Laguna Nigel Councilwoman Mimi Walters. Bates, U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, State Senators Ross Johnson and Dick Ackerman are in support. Sacto-based Gilliard Blanning & Wysocki are running the Walters effort. Also running is Vista School Board member Jim Gibson...

☒ **70th AD Update** – In last week's story *Calpeek* noted that a Don Wagner was also a GOP candidate. We've got more info now about Wagner. He's a trustee of the Saddleback Community College, an attorney, rather conservative (pro-gun, pro-life) and has/or will put in a large sum of his own money. He's hired Scott Taylor as lead consultant; Bob Moore will handle polling; and Jim Bieber will do the direct mail...FYI: GOP businesswoman Cristi Cristich, also running here, has been named Orange Co. chair of the official Recall Davis Committee...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ ***Tribute to Celes King III*** – We note with sadness the passing of Celes King III, an L.A. & U.S. civil rights leader, businessman, bail bondsman, founding State chair of CORE (the Congress of Racial Equality) and the man who led the fight to get Santa Barbara Ave. renamed Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. King died April 12th of kidney failure and other ailments. The late Jerry Goldberg, who worked for King, often told *Calpeek* King was really one of the unsung heroes of the civil rights movement. When all those civil rights workers were busted while freedom riding or sitting in at segregated lunch counters, it was King who bailed them out of jail. He never got much credit for that. And while he and the late Tom Bradley were not on speaking terms for many years, King and Bradley were best friends before Bradley was elected to the council. King played a key role in electing Bradley to the council, but it was sometime after Bradley became mayor that he and King fell out. And because of that falling out, Bradley hardly ever took part in the MLK Birthday parade because King was the parade's co-founder. Politically, Celes King III was not a Demo, but a strong GOper. He was a member of the CA Republican Party's Central Cmt. and several times a delegate to the RNC convention. R.I.P...

■ ***The Spy Who Loved Me*** – If former FBI Agent James J. Smith thought he was accused Chinese double agent Katrina Leung's only lover – he was wrong. She also had a relationship with another ex-FBI agent, William Cleveland

Jr. This whole story about sex, Chinese agents and spying is the most titillating espionage case to hit the U.S. in many a year. Leung is a business consultant from San Marino who was well connected socially and politically. She was a big contributor to the Calif. GOP and to GOP candidates, including former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan and Bill Simon Jr. Much to his shock, U.S. Rep. David Dreier(R-Covina) appointed Leung to the CA Republican Party Central Cmt. But it's CA Demo Party consultant Bob Mulholland who is having the most fun with *The Spy Who Loved Me* story. In a letter to Simon (addressed *Dear Billy*), Mulholland notes that Leung's major donor report filed with the SOS, shows one check to Simon for \$4,000(4/29/02) as well as a \$200 cash contribution (10/19/02). "Calif. law prohibits cash of \$100 or more, but maybe Beijing wasn't clear on that issue," Mulholland wrote. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Apr. 24	Century City Assn.'s 9 th annual Treasurers of Los Angeles luncheon, 11 a.m., Westin Bonaventure Hotel, L.A.
Apr. 24	12 th District L.A. City Council debate at Granada Hills High School.
May 1	SCAG 2003 General Assembly, L.A.
May 3	So. Carolina Demo Party presidential debate.

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- Attorney Karen Getman, former chair of the CA Fair Political Practices Commission(FPPC), has become *Of Counsel* to Remcho, Johansen & Purcell...
- Attorney Michael Montgomery has relocated his law offices to 2627 Mission St., #1, San Marino, CA 91108. (626)799-0550...
- Michael Wissot has been named Southern CA director of the Republican Jewish Coalition(RJC). Wissot is a former aide to U.S. Sen. John McCain(R-AZ)...
- Gov. Davis has reappointed attorney Cynthia McClain-Hill to the Calif. Coastal Commission...
- L.A. based Cerrell Associates has been hired by the Lo. Angeles World Affairs Council to handle media relations for the organization's 50th anniversary gala on May 17th, featuring UN Secretary Gen. Kofi Annan...
- Brian Lewis, editor of the L.A. Indep. Newspaper Group, has been hired as Media Relations Director by L.A. based Marathon Communications, Inc...